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SOVIET ARTILLERY DAY

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IN HONOR OF SOVIET ARTILLERY DAY

Leningrad, 16 November. (TASS). The people of Leningrad are preparing for the proper celebration of Artillery Day. Talks are being given at plants and factories, in institutions, and vuzes. At the Officers' Club imeni S. M. Kirov, there has been opened a display of literature on "The Soviet Artillery in Combat for the Motherland". A display of materials on the heroic actions of Soviet artillerymen is being organized by the Defense Club and by Dosaaf primary organizations.

The best artillery pieces in the world first originated in Russia. Exhibits at the Museum of Artillery History tell of the development of Russian artillery. Here are preserved cast iron and iron cannon wrought in the 16th century, unicorns [medium-sized artillery pieces, so named because of the figure of a unicorn emblazoned upon them] of the period of the great commander A. V. Suvorov, and the first rifled artillery pieces. In the halls devoted to Soviet artillery are exhibited the achievements of Soviet designers in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Here visitors may see guns that defended Moscow, the gun that fired the first shot into Berlin.

Evening celebrations in honor of Soviet Artillery Day are being organized in culture and workers' clubs. (Full text.)

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Kiev, 16 November. (TASS). Preparations for Artillery Day have begun at enterprises, vuzes, schools, agitation centres, in military units and schools of the Ukrainian capital. Participants in the Great Patriotic War are delivering lectures and talks on: "Comrade I. V. Stalin - Founder of the Mighty Soviet Artillery", "The Role of Soviet Artillery in the Defeat of the German-Fascist Occupiers", and others. Among the speakers are the famous artillerymen, Heroes of the Soviet Union, Koshechkin, Officers Shumnyy, Bystrov, Shchurenko, Kuteykin, and others.

Exhibits depicting the combat experiences of Stalinist artillery have been organized in the club and library of the Red Banner Self-Propelled Artillery School.

Amateur art groups are preparing holiday concert programs.
(Full text.)

- 1 -
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RESTRICTED**SOVIET ARTILLERY DAY**

by

Major General P. Berezin

Today, on Artillery Day, the Soviet people and their armed forces honor their valiant artillerymen and artillery industry workers.

The celebration of Artillery Day is linked with one of the decisive phases of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against Fascist Germany. On 19 November 1942, Soviet troops passed over to a decisive offensive at Stalingrad, surrounded and destroyed a crack German army of 330,000 men. In this historic battle our artillery brilliantly carried out the missions placed before it by the Supreme Command. The all-enveloping fire of thousands of guns and mortars paralyzed the enemy, disorganized its command, destroyed large numbers of its troops and materiel.

Today the workers of our country and the men of the Soviet Army with gratitude turn their thoughts and feelings to Comrade Stalin - the great leader, inspirer, and organizer of our victories. Even as far back as the dawn of Soviet power, Comrade Stalin defined the important role of artillery in modern warfare. Daily Stalinist guidance and Stalinist concern facilitated the mighty growth of the Soviet artillery.

The nation is observing Artillery Day under conditions of great political and industrial growth. Under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party and the inspiration of the great Stalin, the Soviet people have attained vast new victories in the building of Communism. These victories were vividly depicted in the speech of Comrade L. P. Beriya dedicated to the 34th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution. Everywhere - from the Baltic to the Pacific - peaceful construction goes on. With great enthusiasm the Soviet people are building ^{the} largest canals and hydro-electric power stations in the world, bringing to life the Stalinist plan for the transformation of nature.

The Soviet peoples, occupied with peaceful creative labor, are interested in a lasting peace. They are the most resolute and persistent fighters for peace and for friendship among nations. The Stalinist foreign policy of the Soviet government is based on peace. But we are fighting for

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

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peace "not only because we have no need for war but also because the Soviet people, which under the banner of Lenin and Stalin has created in its country the most just social system, considers aggressive war to be a most heinous crime against humanity, a terrible disaster for common people the world over. But if the imperialist plunderers construe our people's love of peace as weakness, they have in store for themselves a still more shameful fiasco than that experienced by their predecessors in military escapades against the Soviet state". (I. P. Beriya)

Standing on guard of the peaceful labor of our people are its armed forces. Occupying one of the most important positions in the composition of those forces is the artillery. The entire nation prides itself in the combat exploits of Soviet artillerymen. Trained in the spirit of boundless devotion to the party of Lenin and Stalin and the Socialist Motherland, our artillerymen, through their selfless bravery and courage, have written many glorious pages in the history of the struggle of the Soviet people for freedom and independence.

Stalinist artillery grew and developed apace with all other branches of the Soviet Army. All its successes, development, improvement, the growth in its personnel is indissolubly linked with the name of Comrade Stalin.

Our artillery has a great and glorious history. Its precursor was the valiant Russian artillery, whose history runs through a period of over 500 years. Its development began back in the reign of Ivan the Terrible. It was at that time, for the first time in the world, that regimental artillery, functioning as part of a rifle regiment, was organized. The greatest development of our artillery came during the period of Peter I. Having founded a regular Russian army on new principles, Peter basically reorganized his artillery also. Depending upon the character of its mission, artillery was divided into regimental, field, garrison, and siege categories. The manufacture of cannon was systematized. Peter laid the foundations for artillery training in Russia. The results of these innovations became evident in the battle

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

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of Poltava, where the invading forces of the Swedish king Charles XII were completely routed.

The heroic actions of Russian artillerymen are indissolubly linked also with the combat activities of the great commanders Aleksandr Suvorov and Mikhail Kutuzov.

Priority in the making of rifled artillery and breach mechanisms belongs to Russian artillerymen, inventors, and designers. In these technical achievements, Russia outdistanced Western Europe by over 200 years. Russia was the birthplace of rapid-firing artillery. The Russian designer Baranovskiy was the first to design several types of rapid-firing cannon, the likes of which were not to be found in any European army. Russian artillerymen have always distinguished themselves in the art of firing, through their bravery and whole-hearted service to their country.

After the Civil War, thanks to the unfailing work of the party and Comrade Stalin personally in strengthening the might of our nation, Soviet artillery became the most powerful in the world. It matured, grew, and improved apace with the Socialist industry organized during the years of the Stalinist five-year plans.

The fire power of our artillery and the combat mastery of its cadre grew with each passing year. With love and attention Comrade Stalin trained artillery cadres and cadres of artillery designers. All of our artillery designers are disciples of the Stalin school. The Soviet Army and the nation are well acquainted with the names of such outstanding designers as Heroes of Socialist Labor V. G. Grabin, F. F. Petrov, I. I. Ivanov, and others.

In its defensive and offensive combat actions against the German-Fascist marauders during the Great Patriotic War, Soviet artillery thoroughly demonstrated its force and might.

Evaluating the actions of the artillery, Comrade Stalin stated in his order of 19 November 1944: "It is well known to all that the Soviet artillery attained full mastery over the artillery of the enemy on the field of battle, that in the numerous battles with the enemy Soviet artillerymen and mortarmen covered themselves with ~~the~~ ^{the} everlasting glory of courage and

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heroism, and that their commanders and leaders displayed a thorough mastery of the conduct of fire".

For heroism and meritorious service to their country during the Great Patriotic War, over 1,600 artillerymen of the Soviet Army had conferred upon them the high honor of Hero of the Soviet Union. Hundreds of thousands of artillerymen were awarded orders and medals of the Soviet Union. Many artillery units and commands whose personnel had displayed mass heroism and an iron will in engagements with the German and Japanese usurpers during the Great Patriotic War were ~~made in~~ ^{promoted to} guard units.

Soviet artillerymen have fully absorbed the best and outstanding features of Russian artillery.

The great leaders - V. I. Lenin and I. V. Stalin, having organized the Red Army and Navy, paid great attention to the development of artillery as one of the most important branches of the army. In the years of the Civil War, troops of the foreign interventionists and White Guardsmen more than once felt the shattering blows of the youthful Soviet artillery.

In the historic battles of the Great Patriotic War, Soviet artillery demonstrated that it is main striking force of the Soviet Army.

"As is well known," wrote Comrade Stalin, "it was the artillery which helped the Red Army halt the advance of the enemy at the approaches to Leningrad and Moscow.

"It was the artillery which helped the Red Army defeat the German forces at Stalingrad and Voronezh, at Kursk and Belgorod, at Khar'kov and Kiev, at Vitebsk and Bobruysk, at Leningrad and Minsk, at Iasi and Kishinev.

"With its shattering fire, the artillery successfully cleared a path for the infantry and tanks in the great battles of the Patriotic War, resulting in the enemy being thrown back across the borders of our Motherland."

In the years of the Great Patriotic War the might of the Soviet artillery grew continually. By order of Comrade Stalin, new types of artillery - rocket and self-propelled - were created. Antiaircraft artillery, considerably strengthened and supplied with the latest equipment, successfully ward off enemy attacks from the air.

In the course of the war, through the initiative of Comrade Stalin, great numbers of large artillery commands were organized. This had great

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significance in improving the role of artillery in offensive operations. The organization of large commands provided the best solution for the problem of supplying ^{concentrated} ~~concentrated~~ fire with which to breach German fortifications.

Throughout the entire Great Patriotic War our artillery relied upon the great achievements of Socialist industry, upon the support of toilers of the Soviet home front. The artillery industry, in the course of the last three years of the war, annually produced up to 120,000 guns of all types. The mortar industry averaged 100,000 mortars a year over the period 1942-1944. In 1944 alone there were produced 240 million shells, bombs, and mines.

During the Great Patriotic War our industry manufactured 29 times as many cannon, 89 times as many mortars, and 78 times as many machine guns as were produced by the industry of Tsarist Russia during World War I.

In time of peace Soviet artillerymen, like all our armed forces, are guarding the creative labor and state interests of our Socialist Motherland, are strengthening their combat preparedness, mastering combat skills, and assimilating new, complex war materiel. Like all the Soviet people, they are keeping a watchful eye upon the intrigues of the imperialists - the instigators of a new world war.

Our valiant artillerymen, together with all other soldiers of the Soviet Army, stand on guard of the achievements of the October Revolution and the peaceful labor of the Soviet people, who are building Communism and are actively striving for peace throughout the world.

(Full text.)

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RESTRICTED

- 6 -